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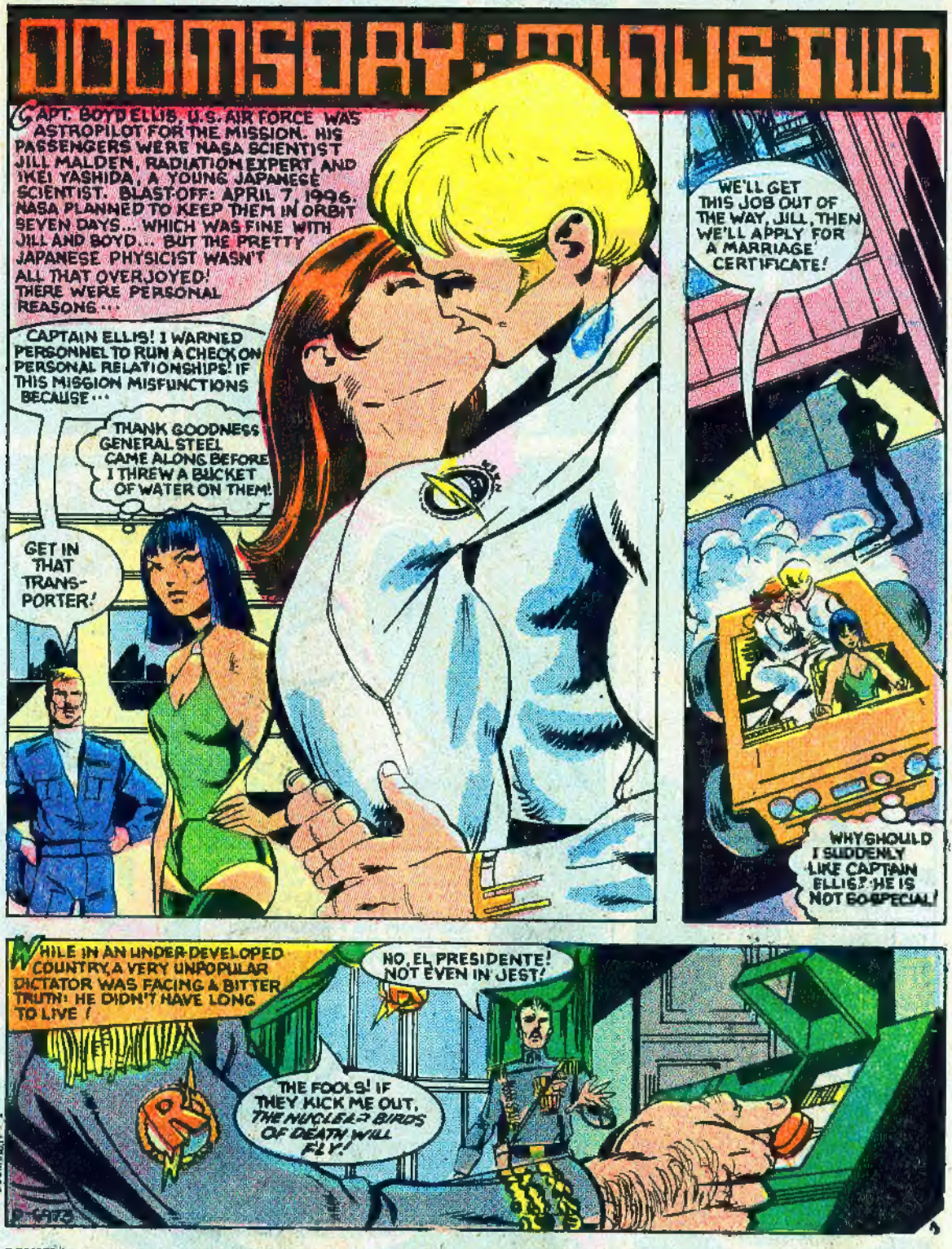
DOOMSDAY: MINUS TWO
CAPT. BOYD ELLIS, U.S. AIR FORCE WAS ASTROPILOT FOR THE MISSION. HIS PASSENGERS WERE NASA SCIENTIST JILL MALDEN, RADIATION EXPERT, AND IKEI YASHIDA, A YOUNG JAPANESE SCIENTIST. BLAST-OFF: APRIL 7, 1996. NASA PLANNED TO KEEP THEM IN ORBIT SEVEN DAYS... WHICH WAS FINE WITH JILL AND BOYD... BUT THE PRETTY JAPANESE PHYSICIST WASN'T ALL THAT OVERJOYED! THERE WERE PERSONAL REASONS...
CAPTAIN ELLIS! I WARNED PERSONNEL TO RUN A CHECK ON PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS! IF THIS MISSION MISFUNCTIONS BECAUSE...
THANK GOODNESS GENERAL STEEL CAME ALONG BEFORE I THREW A BUCKET OF WATER ON THEM!
GET IN THAT TRANS-PORTER!
WE'LL GET THIS JOB OUT OF THE WAY, JILL, THEN WE'LL APPLY FOR A MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE!
WHY SHOULD I SUDDENLY LIKE CAPTAIN ELLIS? HE IS NOT SO SPECIAL!
WHILE IN AN UNDER-DEVELOPED COUNTRY, A VERY UNPOPULAR DICTATOR WAS FACING A BITTER TRUTH: HE DIDN'T HAVE LONG TO LIVE!
NO, EL PRESIDENTE! NOT EVEN IN JEST!
THE FOOLS! IF THEY KICK ME OUT, THE NUCLEAR BIRDS OF DEATH WILL FLY!

DOOMSDAY + 1 Vol. 3, No. 7, June, 1978,
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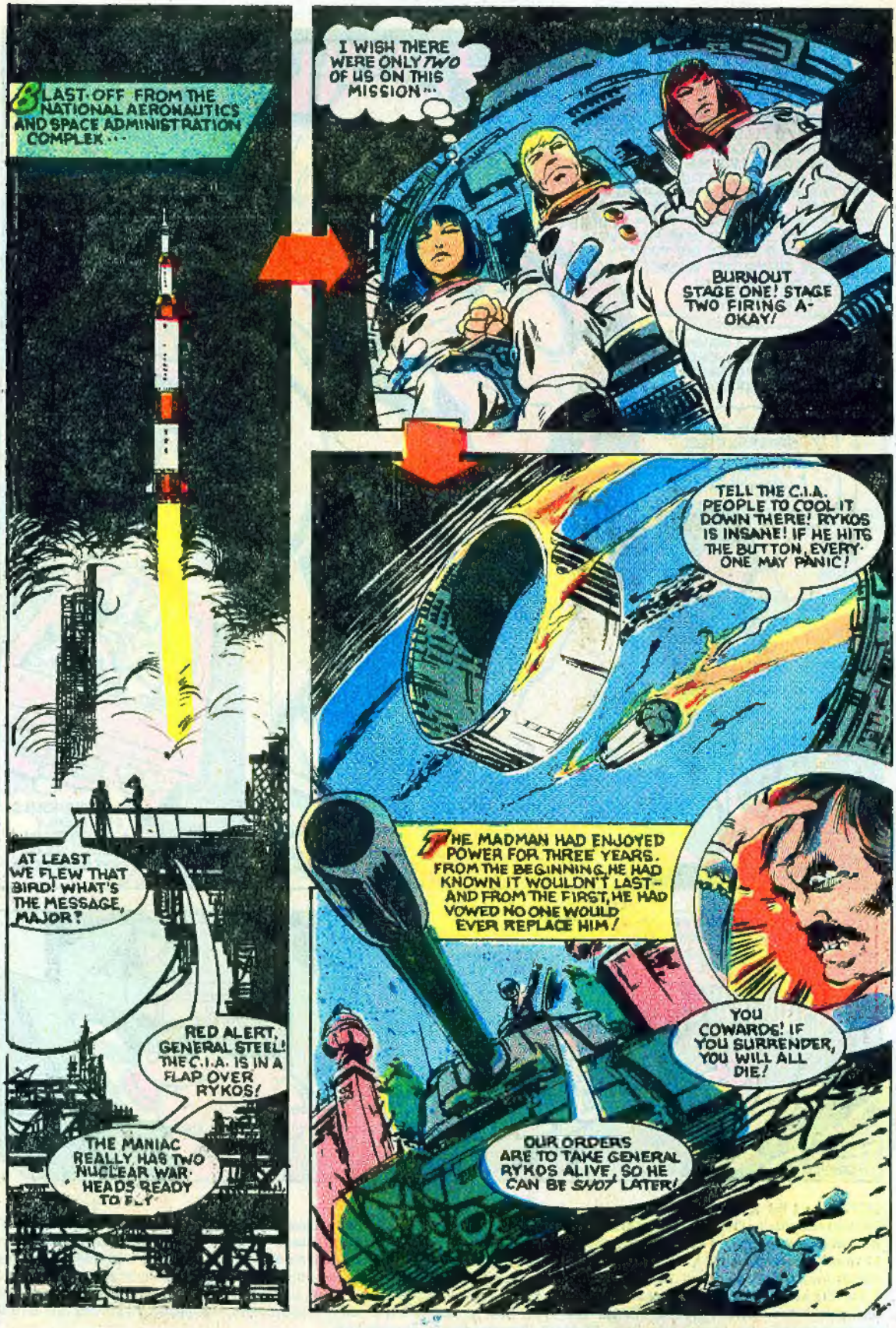
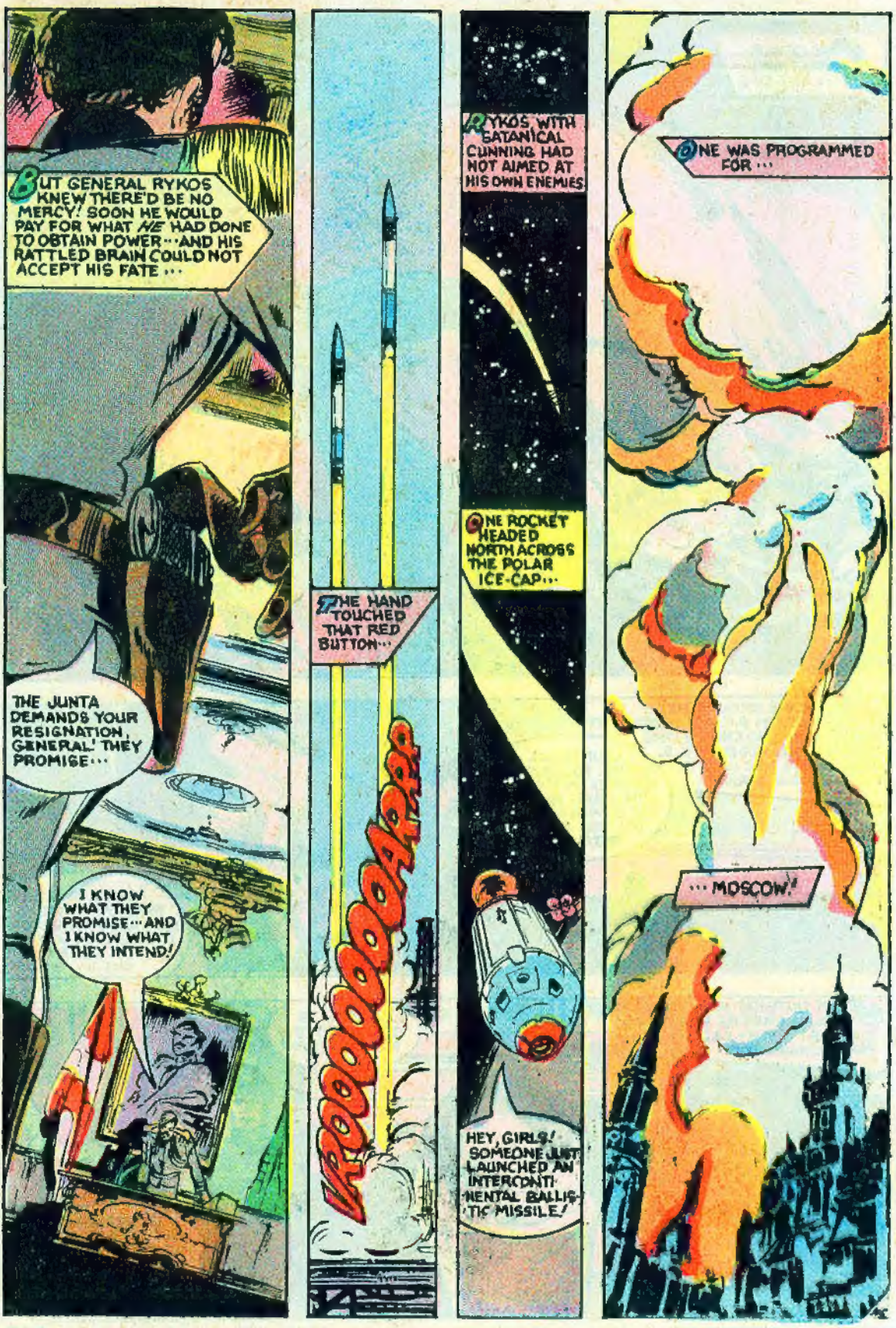
A MrBC Scan!


BLAST-OFF FROM THE NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION COMPLEX...
I WISH THERE WERE ONLY TWO OF US ON THIS MISSION...
BURNOUT STAGE ONE! STAGE TWO FIRING A-OKAY!
TELL THE C.I.A. PEOPLE TO COOL IT DOWN THERE! RYKOS IS INSANE! IF HE HITS THE BUTTON, EVERY-ONE MAY PANIC!
THE MADMAN HAD ENJOYED POWER FOR THREE YEARS. FROM THE BEGINNING, HE HAD KNOWN IT WOULDN'T LAST-AND FROM THE FIRST, HE HAD VOWED NO ONE WOULD EVER REPLACE HIM!
YOU COWARDS! IF YOU SURRENDER, YOU WILL ALL DIE!
OUR ORDERS ARE TO TAKE GENERAL RYKOS ALIVE, SO HE CAN BE SHOT LATER!
AT LEAST WE FLEW THAT BIRD! WHAT'S THE MESSAGE, MAJOR?
RED ALERT, GENERAL STEEL! THE C.I.A. IS IN A FLAP OVER RYKOS!
THE MANIAC REALLY HAS TWO NUCLEAR WAR-HEADS READY TO FLY


BUT GENERAL RYKOS KNEW THERE'D BE NO MERCY! SOON HE WOULD PAY FOR WHAT HE HAD DONE TO OBTAIN POWER···AND HIS RATTLED BRAIN COULD NOT ACCEPT HIS FATE···
THE JUNTA DEMANDS YOUR RESIGNATION, GENERAL! THEY PROMISE···
I KNOW WHAT THEY PROMISE···AND I KNOW WHAT THEY INTEND!
THE HAND TOUCHED THAT RED BUTTON···
WHOOOOOARRR
RYKOS WITH SATANICAL CUNNING HAD NOT AIMED AT HIS OWN ENEMIES
ONE ROCKET HEADED NORTH ACROSS THE POLAR ICE-CAP···
HEY, GIRLS! SOMEONE JUST LAUNCHED AN INTERCONTINENTAL BALLISTIC MISSILE!
ONE WAS PROGRAMMED FOR···
···MOSCOW!

THE OTHER TARGET WAS...
...NEW YORK CITY, WITH ITS TEEMING POPULATION OF 9.5 MILLIONS!
DEEP IN THE GROUND NEAR WASHINGTON D.C. THE PRESIDENT KNEW HE HAD NO CHOICE. THE MOMENT DREADED BY U.S. PRESIDENTS FOR HALF A CENTURY HAD ARRIVED...
LAUNCH ALL BIRDS. POLARIS SUB-MARINES, MINUTE-MEN ICBMS AND SAC BOMBERS. DELIVER MAXIMUM RETALIATION...
WILCO, MISTER PRESIDENT. WE HAVE ABOUT TWENTY-TWO MINUTES LEFT. I- I'M SORRY, SIR...
JUST OUTSIDE MOSCOW, SIMILAR ORDERS WERE GIVEN BY A VERY SAD PARTY CHAIRMAN...
MOSCOW IS OBLITERATED, MR. CHAIRMAN!
RETALIATE! ALL AVAILABLE WEAPONRY! THE END IS AT HAND!

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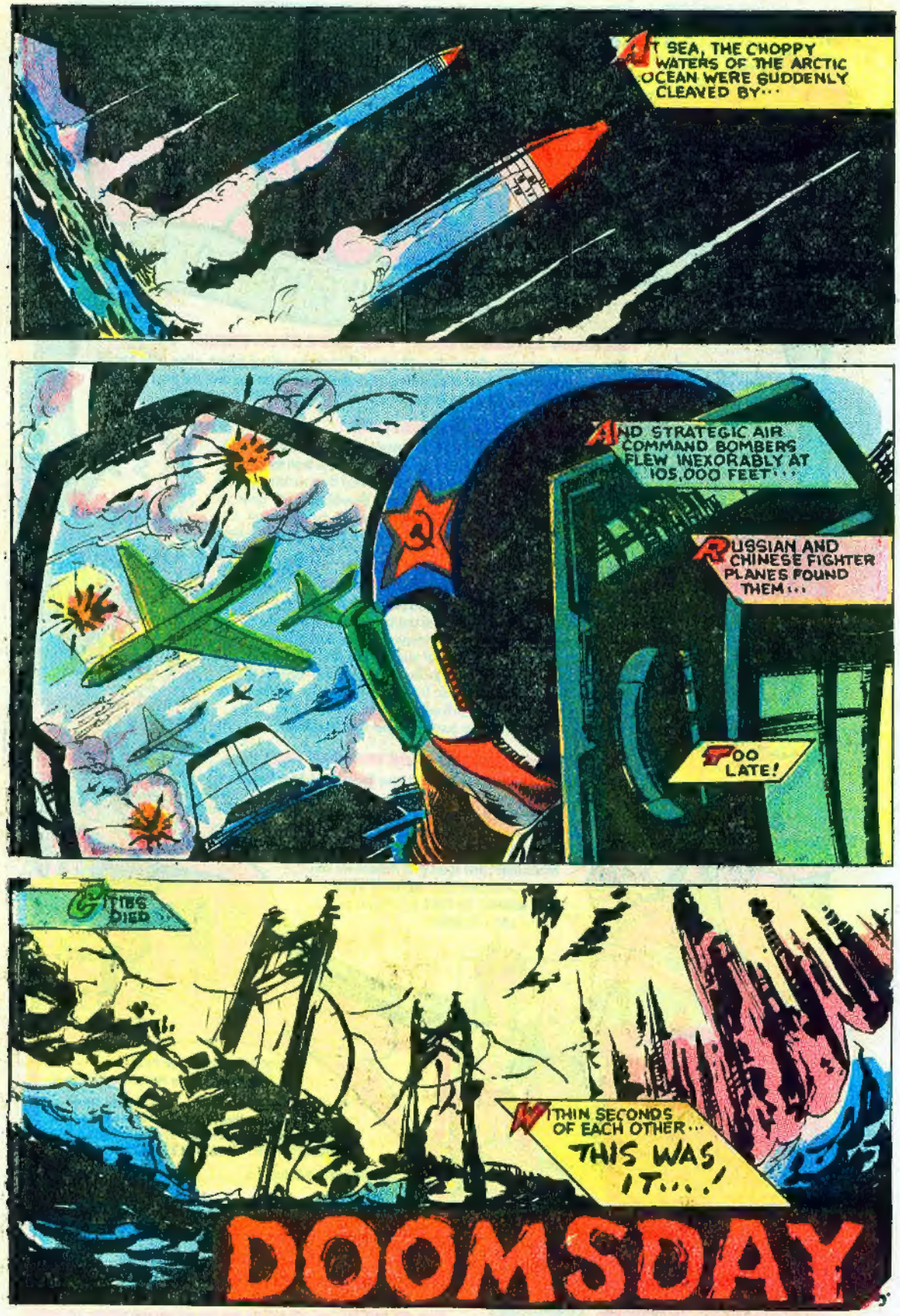
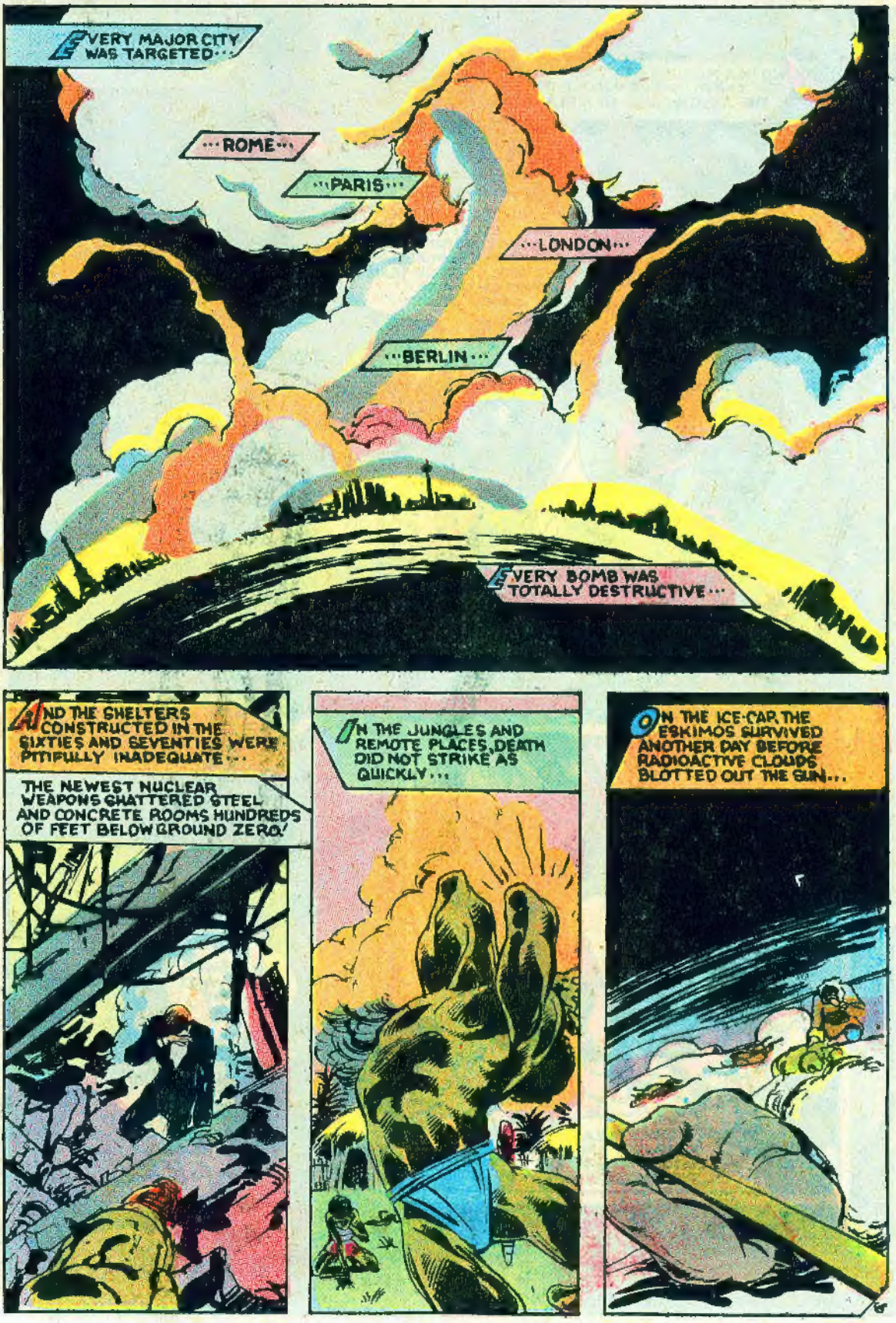

AT SEA, THE CHOPPY WATERS OF THE ARCTIC OCEAN WERE SUDDENLY CLEAVED BY···
AND STRATEGIC AIR COMMAND BOMBERS FLEW INEXORABLY AT 105,000 FEET···
RUSSIAN AND CHINESE FIGHTER PLANES FOUND THEM···
TOO LATE!
GIBBS DIED···
WITHIN SECONDS OF EACH OTHER··· THIS WAS IT···!
DOOMSDAY


EVERY MAJOR CITY WAS TARGETED···
···ROME···
···PARIS···
···LONDON···
···BERLIN···
EVERY BOMB WAS TOTALLY DESTRUCTIVE···
AND THE SHELTERS CONSTRUCTED IN THE SIXTIES AND SEVENTIES WERE PITIFULLY INADEQUATE···
THE NEWEST NUCLEAR WEAPONS SHATTERED STEEL AND CONCRETE ROOMS HUNDREDS OF FEET BELOW GROUND ZERO!
IN THE JUNGLES AND REMOTE PLACES, DEATH DID NOT STRIKE AS QUICKLY···
ON THE ICE-CAP, THE ESKIMOS SURVIVED ANOTHER DAY BEFORE RADIOACTIVE CLOUDS BLOTTED OUT THE SUN···

AND IN A MODULE ORBITING THE EARTH, THREE PEOPLE HEARD THE DEATH-CRIES OF A PLANET···!
NUCLEAR WAR HAS ERUPTED, ELLIS··· TAKE MANUAL CONTROL··· YOUR SUPPORT TEAM AT NASA AND THE BACK-UP TEAM IN AUSTRALIA ARE ···· ON MY GOD···!
NASA CONTROL WENT OFF THE AIR!
HOUSTON FROM RADIATION 14! THIS IS RADIATION 14! MELBOURNE, DO YOU READ? ANY STATION, COME IN PLEASE···!
TOKYO, PLEASE RESPOND! MAYDAY MAYDAY! ANY STATION THIS FREQUENCY····
NO ANSWER, BOYD! WHAT SHALL WE DO?
YOU SAW IT HAPPEN! IT WAS NUCLEAR WAR! OPERATION OVERKILL!
PLANET EARTH IS DEAD!

THEY'RE ALL DEAD··· MY FAMILY, YOURS, BOYD··· EVERYONE ···
IF WE GO DOWN NOW, MAYBE WE···
NO!
ASSUME MANUAL CONTROL, BOYD. WE HAVE RATIONS··· WE MUST REMAIN IN ORBIT AS LONG AS POSSIBLE!
ADIATION PROBE 14 REMAINED IN ORBIT···
HE THREE HUMANS, PERHAPS THE LAST HUMANS LEFT ALIVE, GREW THINNER AS THEY STRETCHED THEIR RATIONS.
WE HAVE TWENTY-FOUR HOURS! IKEI, WE'RE ON A VARIABLE PARABOLIC AXIS... HAVE YOU LOCATED ANY AREA THAT HAS LESS RADIATION AND FALLOUT?
THERE HAS BEEN A POLAR STORM OVER GREENLAND SINCE BEFORE THE NUCLEAR WAR. I GET NO RADIATION READING FROM THAT AREA...
...THE NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS AND FIRES HAVE CAUSED THE POLAR ICE CAP TO PARTIALLY MELT...
...THE GREENLAND ICE-CAP, WHICH IS FROM 5,000 TO 10,000 FEET THICK, IS MELTING!

I DON'T WANT TO LAND ON THE GREENLAND ICE-CAP! WHY CAN'T WE LAND IN NORTH AMERICA—OR EVEN EUROPE?
WE'LL PASS OVER NEW YORK ON OUR NEXT ORBIT, JILL. YOU CAN SEE IT THEN. BOYD IS LOSING ALTITUDE NOW...
JILL MALDEN SAW... AND SHE WAS HORRIFIED!
IN ONLY EIGHT DAYS, THE OCEANS OF THE WORLD HAD RISEN AT LEAST SEVENTY FEET...
IT... MOST OF THE COAST IS UNDER WATER
I KNOW. MY HOME IN JAPAN IS SUBMERGED TOO, JILL.
BUCKLE IN, GIRLS!
THIS IS GOING TO BE A ROUGH LANDING!
RE-ENTRY WILL BE AT A STEEP ANGLE.
IF I MISS GREENLAND, THERE WON'T BE ANYONE TO FISH US OUT OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC!

RE-ENTRY! THE THREE IN THE MODULE ARE SUBJECTED TO A CRUSHING NINE G'S.
* ONE "G" EQUALS ONE GRAVITY. 9 G'S IS NINE TIMES NORMAL GRAVITY.
I'VE RELEASED... THE... DROGUE SHUTES. THEY'LL STABILIZE... THE... MODULE...
HANG ON! WE'LL HIT AT ABOUT 22 MILES PER HOUR— AND NOT IN WATER...
...ON ICE!
CRUNCH!
BOYD...
...HE'S UNCON-SCIOUS...

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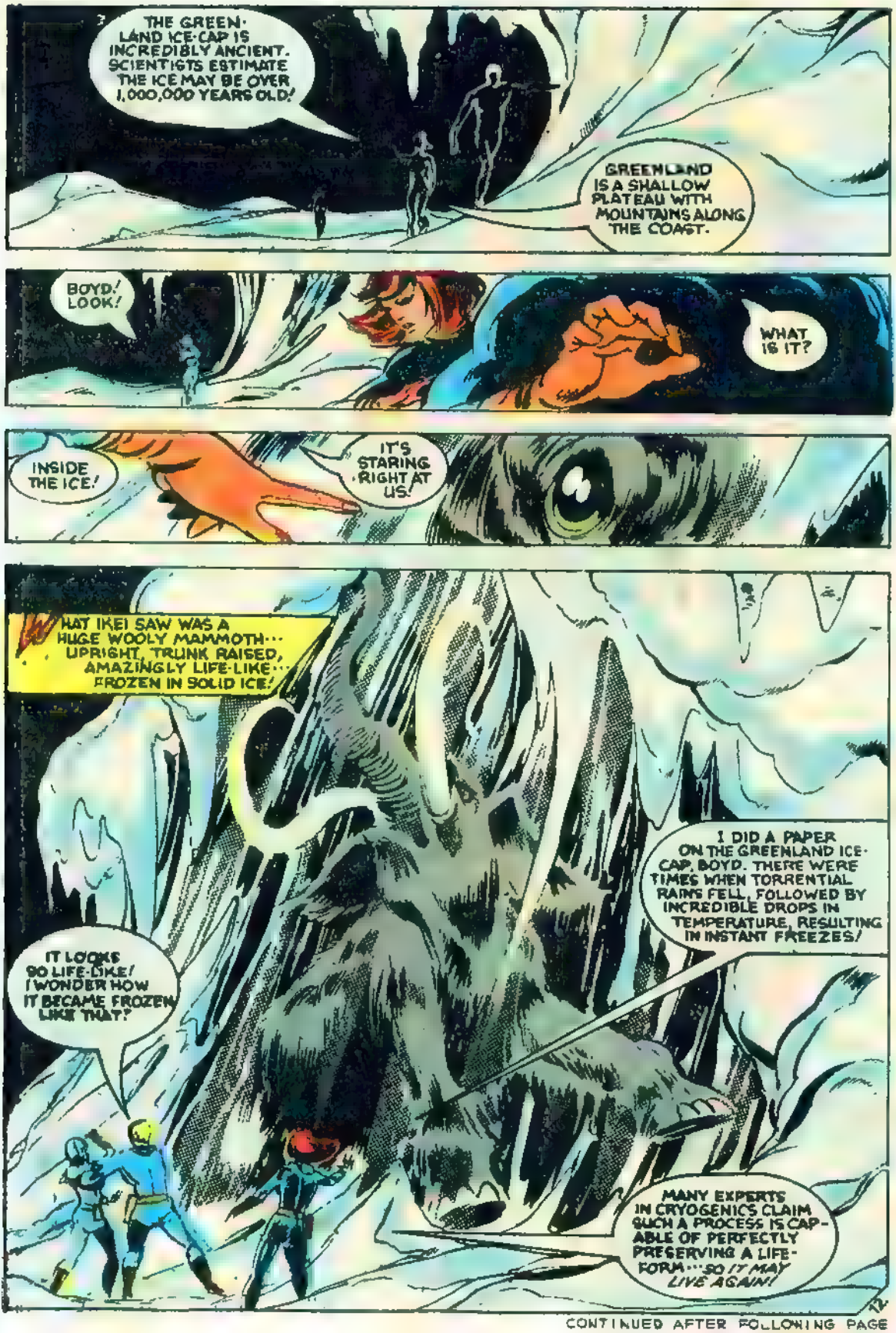
N IMPULSE ··· DRIVEN BY AN INNER NEED, IKEI YASHIDA HAD LONG DENIED··· THE JAPANESE PHYSICIST LEANS TOWARD BOYD ELLIS AND·
THE OUTSIDE TEMPERATURE READS 58 DEGREES, BOYD.
THAT'S A RESULT OF THE NUCLEAR BLASTS AND FIRES ALL OVER THE WORLD!
NO ONE WILL EVER KNOW···
IT'S CHILLY ··· BUT NOT AS COLD AS I'D THOUGHT!
WE'RE NORTH OF THE ARCTIC CIRCLE. IT'LL DROP BELOW ZERO IN A FEW DAYS!
I'M COLD ALREADY!
WE HAVE SURVIVAL GEAR. WE HAD BETTER GET IT ON···
EN MINUTES LATER, IN SUPER-LIGHT SURVIVAL SUITS··
THIS IS BETTER! THEY'RE DESIGNED TO WITHSTAND MINUS 40 DEGREES CENTIGRADE!
IT MAY GET COLDER THAN THAT, IKEI·
LET'S LOOK FOR SHELTER!


THE GREENLAND ICE-CAP IS INCREDIBLY ANCIENT. SCIENTISTS ESTIMATE THE ICE MAY BE OVER 1,000,000 YEARS OLD!
GREENLAND IS A SHALLOW PLATEAU WITH MOUNTAINS ALONG THE COAST.
BOYD! LOOK!
WHAT IS IT?
INSIDE THE ICE!
IT'S STARING RIGHT AT US!
WHAT IKE I SAW WAS A HUGE WOOLY MAMMOTH··· UPRIGHT, TRUNK RAISED, AMAZINGLY LIFE-LIKE··· FROZEN IN SOLID ICE!
I DID A PAPER ON THE GREENLAND ICE-CAP, BOYD. THERE WERE TIMES WHEN TORRENTIAL RAINS FELL, FOLLOWED BY INCREDIBLE DROPS IN TEMPERATURE, RESULTING IN INSTANT FREEZES!
IT LOOKS SO LIFE-LIKE! I WONDER HOW IT BECAME FROZEN LIKE THAT?
MANY EXPERTS IN CRYOGENICS CLAIM SUCH A PROCESS IS CAPABLE OF PERFECTLY PRESERVING A LIFE-FORM···SO IT MAY LIVE AGAIN!
12

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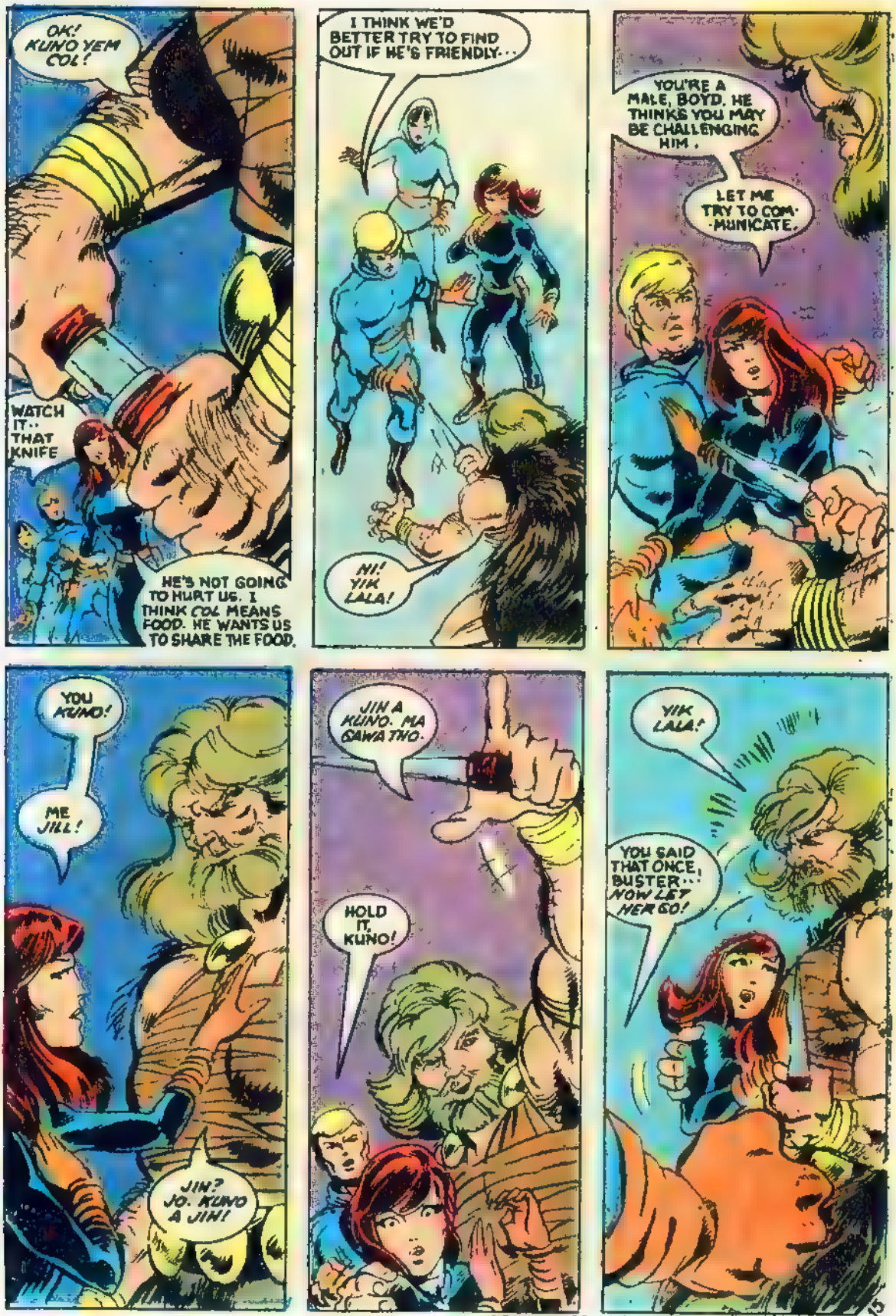
THE WOOLY MAMMOTH, WHICH EXISTED IN GREENLAND 500,000 YEARS AGO ...
EDITOR GEORGE WILDMAN
WRITER: JOE GILL
ARTIST: JOHN BYRNE
THEN BECAME EXTINCT 10,000 YEARS AGO ... WAS BERSERK! HE LOOMED ABOVE THEM, RED RAGE IN HIS GLITTERING EYES ...
BUT HE DID NOT STRIKE .... FOR DEATH TOOK HIM FIRST!
RIGHT OUT OF THE ICE!
WH.. WHERE DID HE COME FROM!?
THE SAME PLACE THE MAMMOTH DID....
KUNO DAL!
THEY LIVE AGAIN


OK! KUNO YEM COL!
WATCH IT.. THAT KNIFE
HE'S NOT GOING TO HURT US. I THINK COL MEANS FOOD. HE WANTS US TO SHARE THE FOOD.
I THINK WE'D BETTER TRY TO FIND OUT IF HE'S FRIENDLY...
HI! YIK LALA!
YOU'RE A MALE, BOYD. HE THINKS YOU MAY BE CHALLENGING HIM.
LET ME TRY TO COM-MUNICATE.
YOU KUNO!
ME JILL!
JIN? JO. KUNO A JIN!
JIN A KUNO. MA GAWA TWO.
HOLD IT, KUNO!
YIK LALA!
YOU SAID THAT ONCE, BUSTER... NOW LET HER GO!

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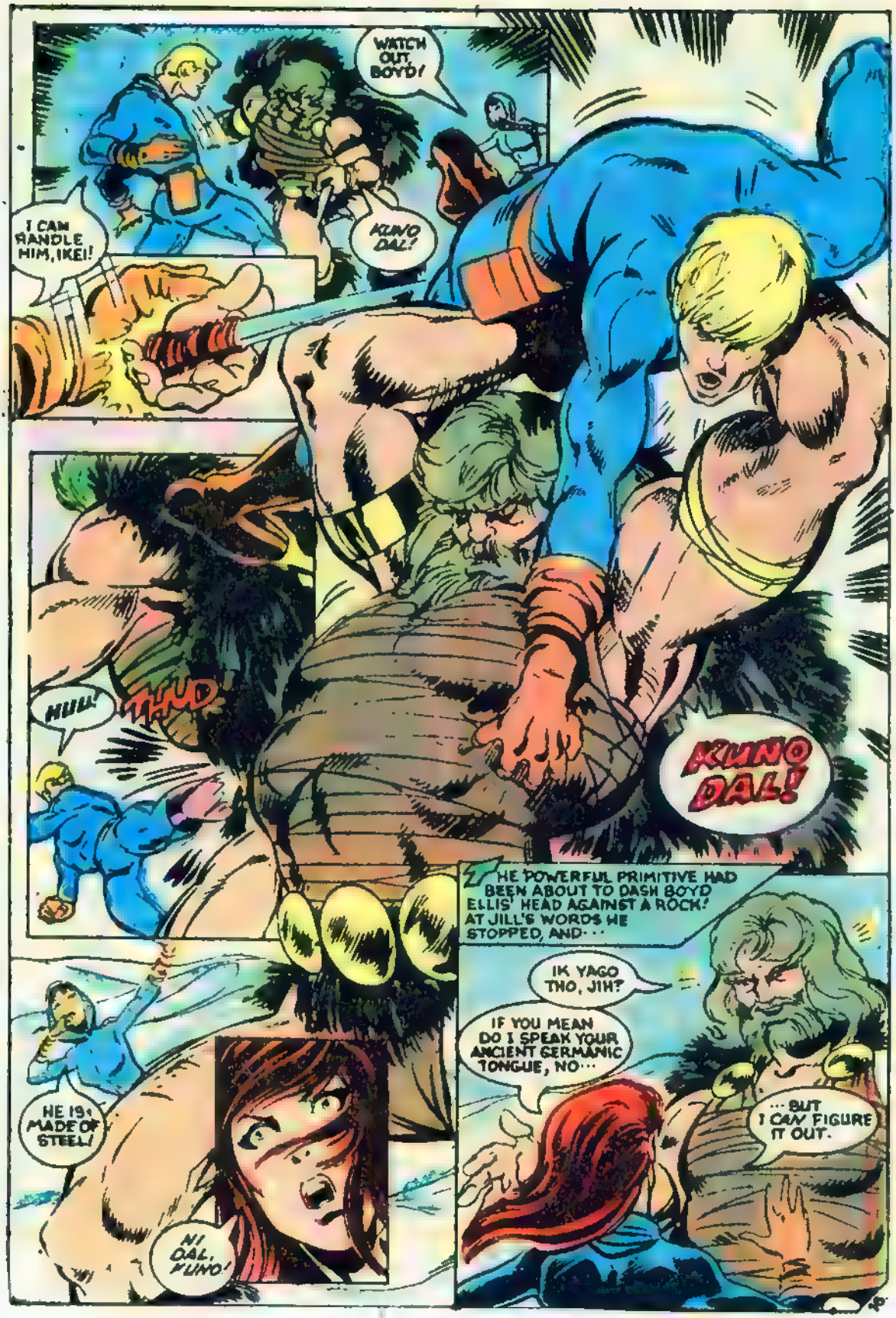
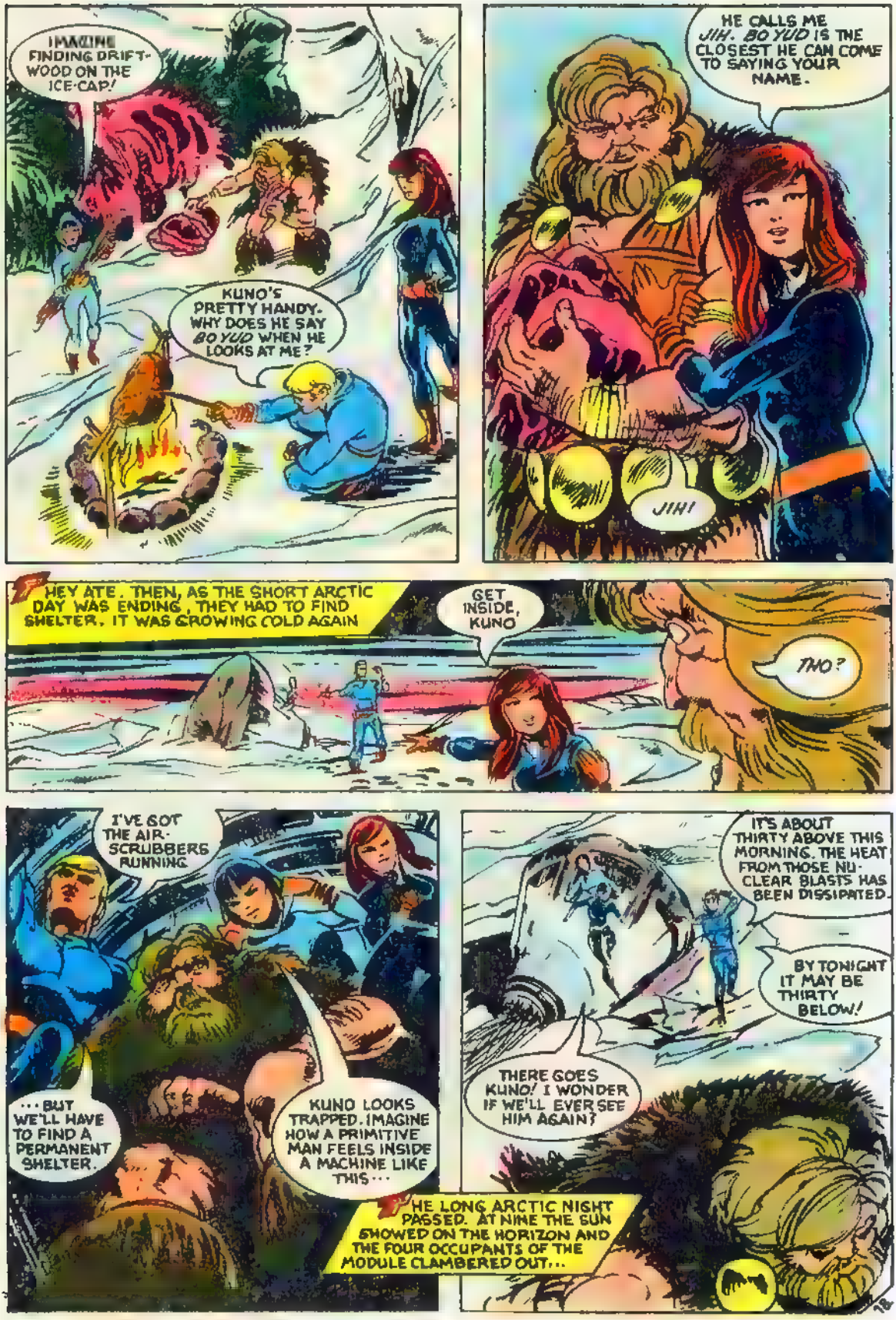
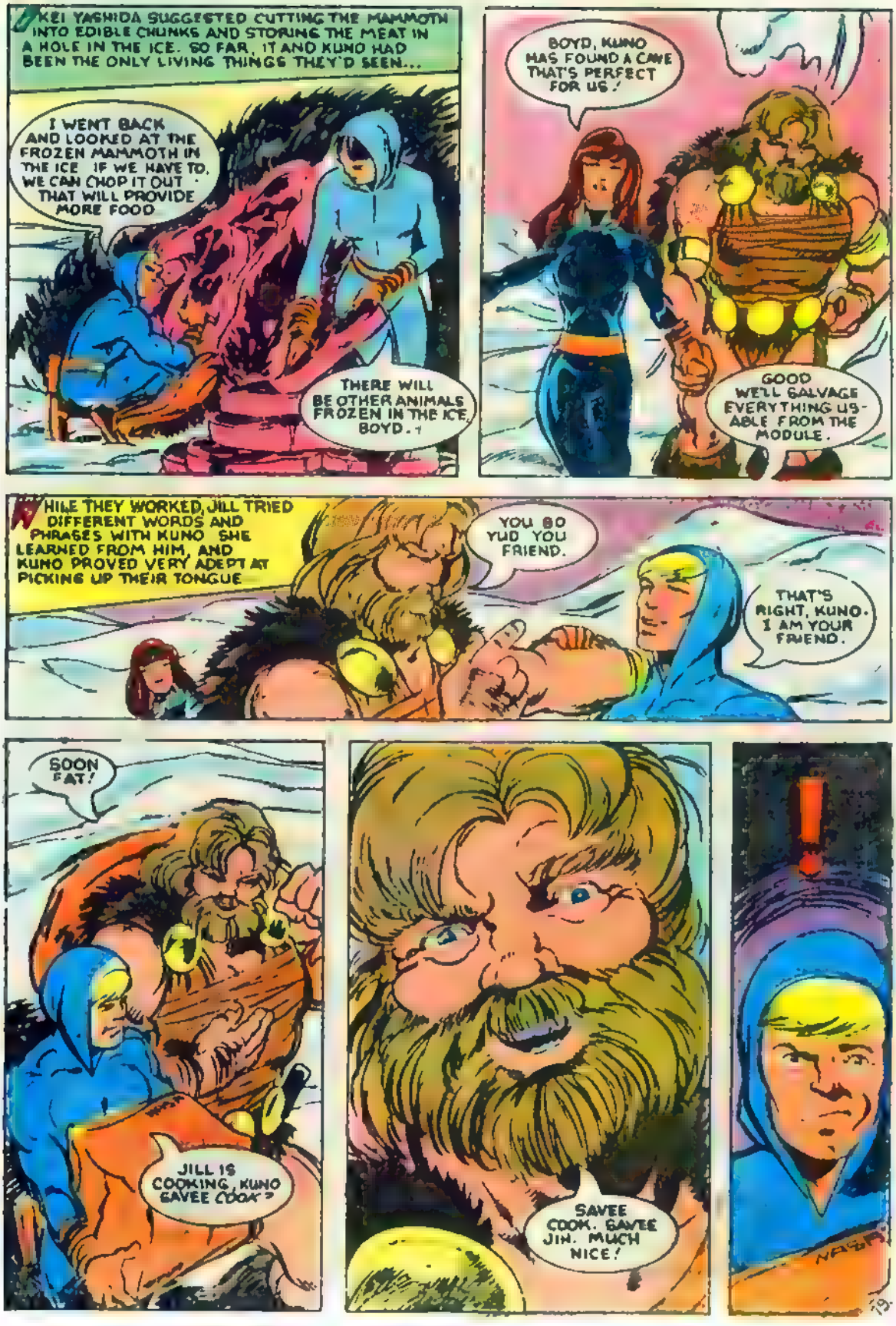
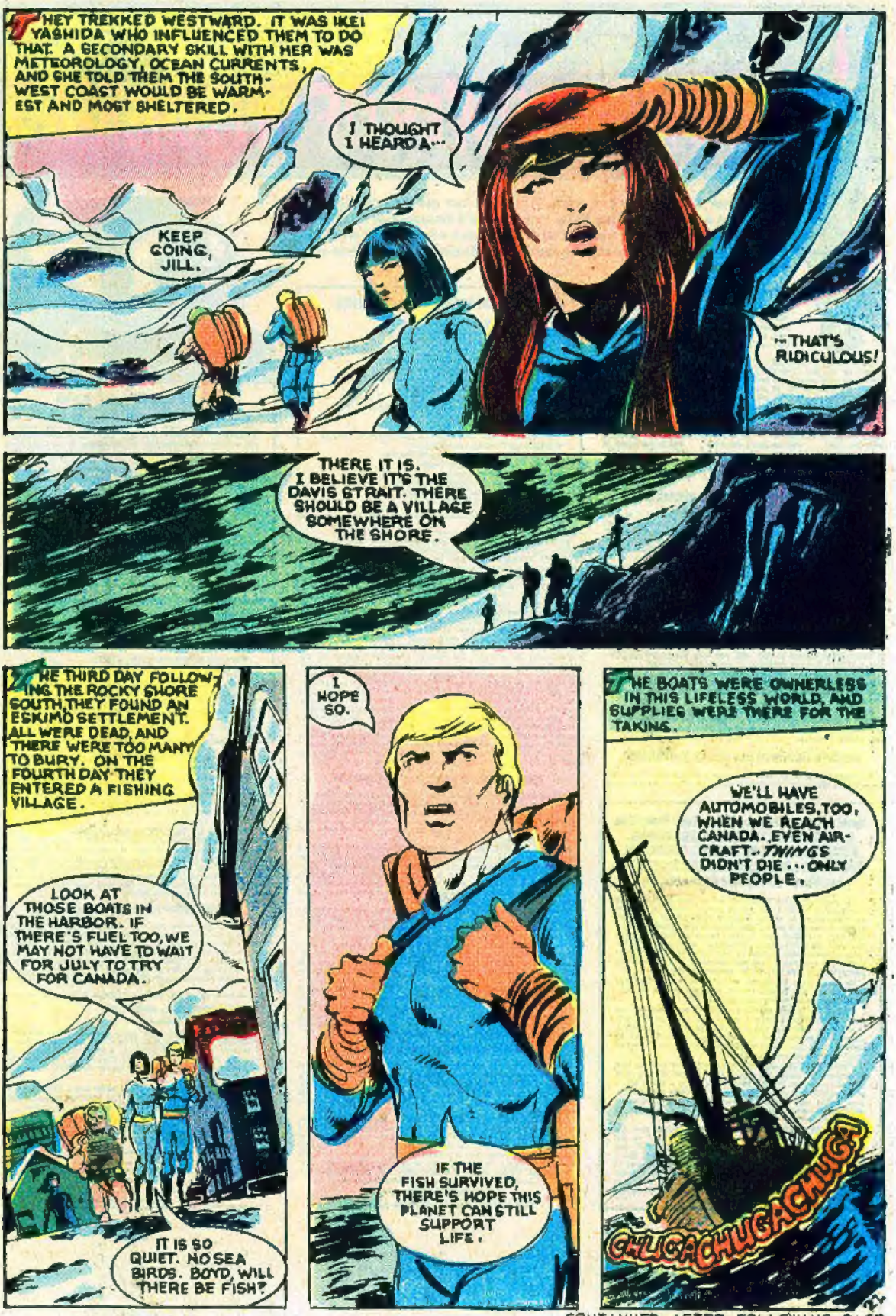

WATCH OUT, BOYD!
I CAN HANDLE HIM, IKE!
KUNO DAL!
HUH!
THUD
KUNO DAL!
THE POWERFUL PRIMITIVE HAD BEEN ABOUT TO DASH BOYD ELLIS' HEAD AGAINST A ROCK! AT JILL'S WORDS HE STOPPED, AND···
IK YAGO THO, JIH?
IF YOU MEAN DO I SPEAK YOUR ANCIENT GERMANIC TONGUE, NO···
···BUT I CAN FIGURE IT OUT.
HE IS MADE OF STEEL!
NI OAL, KUNO!

KUNO TRUSTED JILL. HE DID A STRANGE THING··· HE PUT HER HAND AGAINST HIS CHEEK AND HELD IT THERE...
I THINK HE MEANS WE'RE FRIENDS, BOYD. NOW YOU TWO COME OVER HERE.
KUNO, THIS IS BOYD.
BO YUD?
KUNO!
ME IKE!
KUNO!
WHEN KUNO DROPPED TO HIS KNEES AND BEGAN SAWING RAGGED CHUNKS OFF THE HINDQUARTERS OF THE SLAIN MAMMOTH. BOYD TOOK A KNIFE FROM HIS SURVIVAL KIT AND JOINED IN···
LOOK AT HIM, BOYD! HE'S NEVER SEEN A KNIFE LIKE THAT!
GIVE IT TO HIM. WE HAVE OTHERS.
I GUESS I SHOULD, JILL. HERE, KUNO. IT'S YOURS!
TAGO BO YUD!
12


IMAGINE FINDING DRIFT-WOOD ON THE ICE-CAP!
KUNO'S PRETTY HANDY. WHY DOES HE SAY BO YUD WHEN HE LOOKS AT ME?
HE CALLS ME JIH. BO YUD IS THE CLOSEST HE CAN COME TO SAYING YOUR NAME.
JIH!
HEY ATE. THEN, AS THE SHORT ARCTIC DAY WAS ENDING, THEY HAD TO FIND SHELTER. IT WAS GROWING COLD AGAIN
GET INSIDE, KUNO
THO?
I'VE GOT THE AIR-SCRUBBERS RUNNING
...BUT WE'LL HAVE TO FIND A PERMANENT SHELTER.
KUNO LOOKS TRAPPED. IMAGINE HOW A PRIMITIVE MAN FEELS INSIDE A MACHINE LIKE THIS...
IT'S ABOUT THIRTY ABOVE THIS MORNING. THE HEAT FROM THOSE NU-CLEAR BLASTS HAS BEEN DISSIPATED.
BY TONIGHT IT MAY BE THIRTY BELOW!
THERE GOES KUNO! I WONDER IF WE'LL EVER SEE HIM AGAIN?
HE LONG ARCTIC NIGHT PASSED. AT NINE THE SUN SHOWED ON THE HORIZON AND THE FOUR OCCUPANTS OF THE MODULE CLAMBERED OUT...


OKEI YASHIDA SUGGESTED CUTTING THE MAMMOTH INTO EDIBLE CHUNKS AND STORING THE MEAT IN A HOLE IN THE ICE. SO FAR, IT AND KUNO HAD BEEN THE ONLY LIVING THINGS THEY'D SEEN...
I WENT BACK AND LOOKED AT THE FROZEN MAMMOTH IN THE ICE. IF WE HAVE TO, WE CAN CHOP IT OUT. THAT WILL PROVIDE MORE FOOD.
THERE WILL BE OTHER ANIMALS FROZEN IN THE ICE, BOYD.
BOYD, KUNO HAS FOUND A CAVE THAT'S PERFECT FOR US!
GOOD. WE'LL SALVAGE EVERYTHING USABLE FROM THE MODULE.
WHILE THEY WORKED, JILL TRIED DIFFERENT WORDS AND PHRASES WITH KUNO. SHE LEARNED FROM HIM, AND KUNO PROVED VERY ADEPT AT PICKING UP THEIR TONGUE.
YOU BO YUD. YOU FRIEND.
THAT'S RIGHT, KUNO. I AM YOUR FRIEND.
SOON EAT!
JILL IS COOKING, KUNO SAVEE COOK?
SAVEE COOK. SAVEE JIN. MUCH NICE!
!

IN THE CAVE, USING FAT IN A SHALLOW PAN TO PROVIDE LIGHT AND PRESERVE THEIR IRREPLACEABLE BATTERIES, THE FOUR DISCUSSED THE FUTURE. KUNO UNDERSTOOD MUCH OF WHAT WAS SAID NOW...
GREENLAND HAS A HARSH CLIMATE WE SHOULD FIND A BETTER PLACE. WE WILL NEED A BOAT.
OUR INSTRUMENTS INDICATE NO RADIO-ACTIVITY IN THE ATMOSPHERE HERE.
WE'LL WAIT, IKE!
WE'LL GO TO THE COAST SOON. IT'S... MAY, NOW. WE'LL FIND WOOD, TAKE THE PARA-CHUTES FOR SAILS, AND MAKE OUR TRY IN JULY.
AAARRGGHH!
VERY. THE SABRE-TOOTH TIGER WAS FOUND IN NORTH AMERICA. IT WOULD PROBABLY CROSS TO GREENLAND FROM CANADA. AND IF A MAMMOTH CAN COME OUT OF THE ICE....
THAT NIGHT, OUTSIDE THE CAVE THEY HEARD AN OMINOUS SNARL... SOMETHING ELSE LIVED! KUNO TOLD THEM WHAT...
I THINK HE MEANS A TIGER! IS THAT POSSIBLE?
AAARRGGHH!
SCAT!
GOOD!
WE CAN HANDLE THAT KIND OF TROUBLE, KUNO!


THEY TREKKED WESTWARD. IT WAS IKE! YASHIDA WHO INFLUENCED THEM TO DO THAT. A SECONDARY SKILL WITH HER WAS METEOROLOGY, OCEAN CURRENTS, AND SHE TOLD THEM THE SOUTHWEST COAST WOULD BE WARMEST AND MOST SHELTERED.
I THOUGHT I HEARD A...
KEEP GOING, JILL.
...THAT'S RIDICULOUS!
THERE IT IS. I BELIEVE IT'S THE DAVIS STRAIT. THERE SHOULD BE A VILLAGE SOMEWHERE ON THE SHORE.
THE THIRD DAY FOLLOWING THE ROCKY SHORE SOUTH, THEY FOUND AN ESKIMO SETTLEMENT. ALL WERE DEAD, AND THERE WERE TOO MANY TO BURY. ON THE FOURTH DAY THEY ENTERED A FISHING VILLAGE.
LOOK AT THOSE BOATS IN THE HARBOR. IF THERE'S FUEL TOO, WE MAY NOT HAVE TO WAIT FOR JULY TO TRY FOR CANADA.
IT IS SO QUIET. NO SEA BIRDS. BOYD, WILL THERE BE FISH?
I HOPE SO.
IF THE FISH SURVIVED, THERE'S HOPE THIS PLANET CAN STILL SUPPORT LIFE.
THE BOATS WERE OWNERLESS IN THIS LIFELESS WORLD, AND SUPPLIES WERE THERE FOR THE TAKING.
WE'LL HAVE AUTOMOBILES, TOO, WHEN WE REACH CANADA. EVEN AIRCRAFT - THINGS DIDN'T DIE ... ONLY PEOPLE.
CHUGACHUGACHUGA

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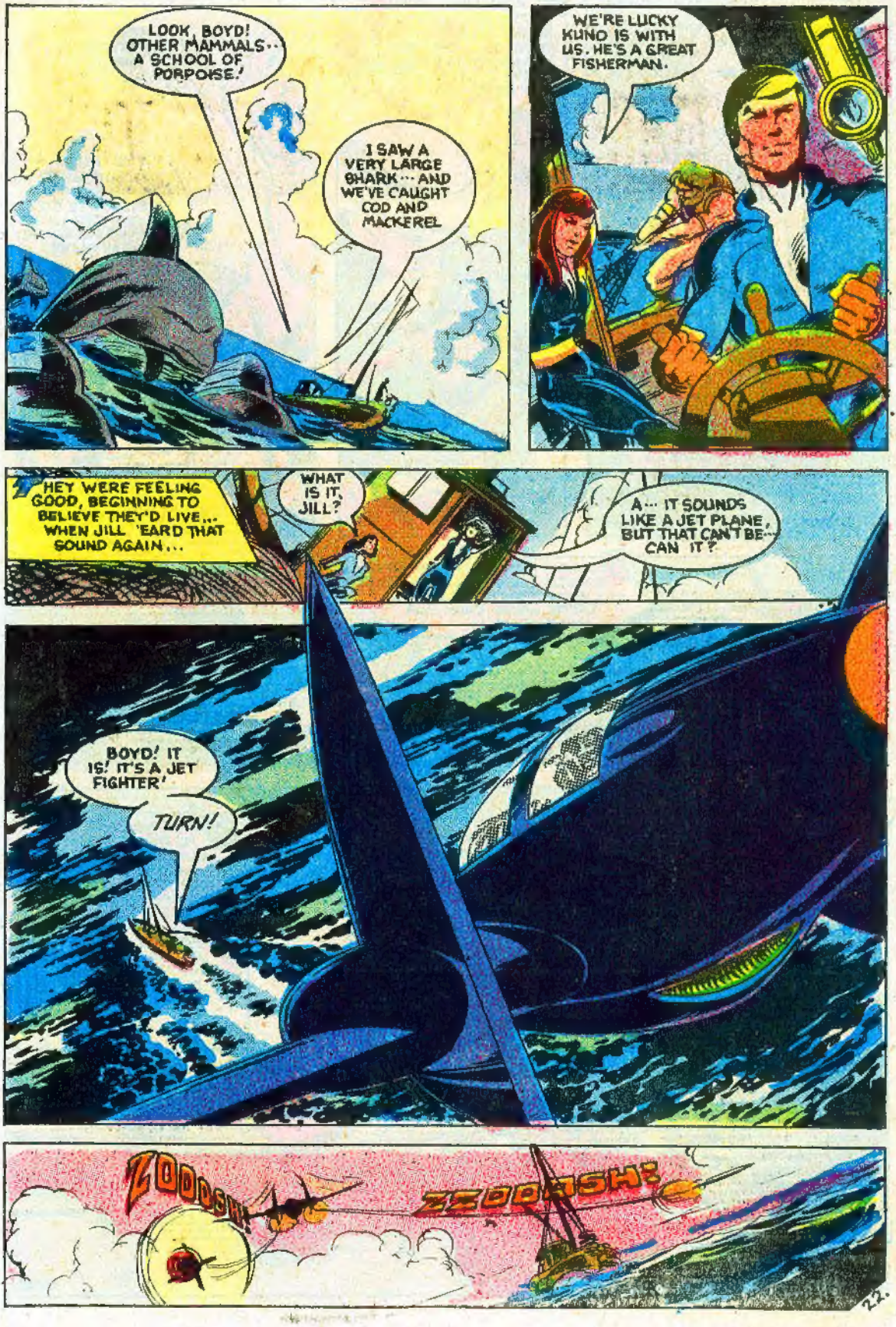
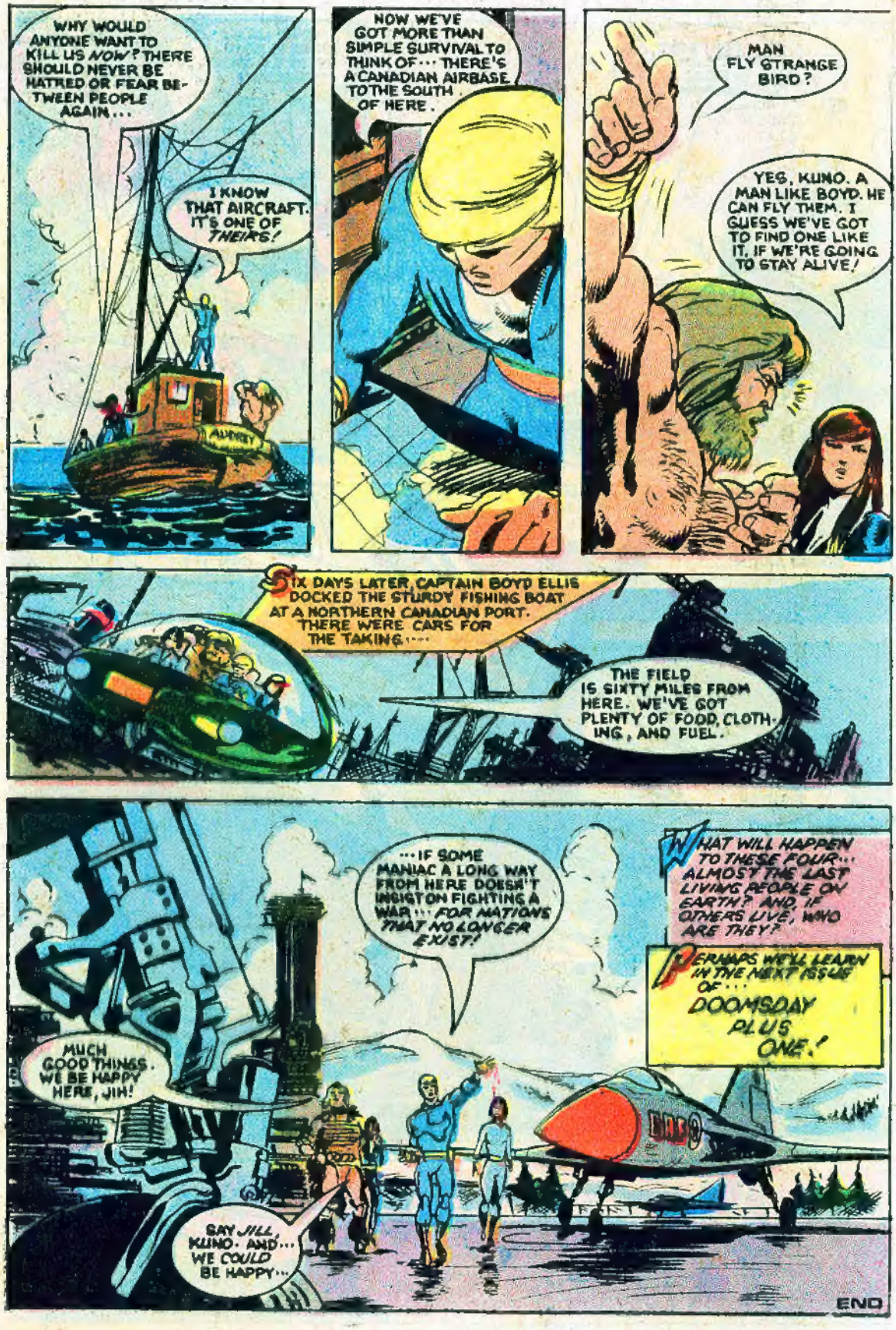

LOOK, BOYD! OTHER MAMMALS.. A SCHOOL OF PORPOISE!
I SAW A VERY LARGE SHARK··· AND WE'VE CAUGHT COD AND MACKEREL
WE'RE LUCKY KUNO IS WITH US. HE'S A GREAT FISHERMAN.
HEY WERE FEELING GOOD, BEGINNING TO BELIEVE THEY'D LIVE... WHEN JILL 'EARD THAT SOUND AGAIN...
WHAT IS IT, JILL?
A··· IT SOUNDS LIKE A JET PLANE, BUT THAT CAN'T BE··· CAN IT?
BOYD! IT IS! IT'S A JET FIGHTER!
TURN!
ZOOOSH!
ZOOOSH!


WHY WOULD ANYONE WANT TO KILL US NOW? THERE SHOULD NEVER BE HATRED OR FEAR BETWEEN PEOPLE AGAIN...
I KNOW THAT AIRCRAFT. IT'S ONE OF THEIRS!
AUDREY
NOW WE'VE GOT MORE THAN SIMPLE SURVIVAL TO THINK OF... THERE'S A CANADIAN AIRBASE TO THE SOUTH OF HERE.
MAN FLY STRANGE BIRD?
YES, KUNO. A MAN LIKE BOYD. HE CAN FLY THEM. I GUESS WE'VE GOT TO FIND ONE LIKE IT, IF WE'RE GOING TO STAY ALIVE!
SIX DAYS LATER, CAPTAIN BOYD ELLIS DOCKED THE STURDY FISHING BOAT AT A NORTHERN CANADIAN PORT. THERE WERE CARS FOR THE TAKING...
THE FIELD IS SIXTY MILES FROM HERE. WE'VE GOT PLENTY OF FOOD, CLOTHING, AND FUEL.
...IF SOME MANIAC A LONG WAY FROM HERE DOESN'T INCIGTON FIGHTING A WAR... FOR NATIONS THAT NO LONGER EXIST!
WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THESE FOUR... ALMOST THE LAST LIVING PEOPLE ON EARTH? AND, IF OTHERS LIVE, WHO ARE THEY?
PERHAPS WE'LL LEARN IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF... DOOMSDAY PLUS ONE!
MUCH GOOD THINGS. WE BE HAPPY HERE, JIH!
SAY JILL, KUNO. AND... WE COULD BE HAPPY...
END

What if....?

What if The Worst happened? What if the nations with nuclear bombs suddenly succumbed to madness and began hurling 1,000 megaton bombs at each other. Just one could wipe out a major city. But the Great Powers have programmed their thousands of missiles so that a dozen will strike at each major city. Cities won't just be destroyed. They will be *wiped out!*

Most nuclear experts predict a vast *Overkill*. That is, the Nuclear Powers have far more than the capability to destroy each other and this capability would be employed to the fullest extent.

Military experts have seen what happened in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the two Japanese cities which were devastated by single, early, primitive bombs. They were far, far less powerful than the sophisticated bombs some nations have today.

And more and more nations are developing atomic bombs. At this moment, at least six nations have atomic weaponry. The bombs can be launched at their targets by ICBM's (Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles), missiles nested in submarines patrolling silently in all the oceans of the world, and buried in silos (round, deep holes in the ground, well camouflaged and bombproof) hidden all over the North American continent.

At the touch of a button, all these birds of death would fly!

In addition, vast fleets of supersonic (faster than sound) bombers are constantly in flight, each loaded with *tons* of nuclear bombs. They would hurtle toward their targets and some would break through the defenses of the nations under attack.

In an hour, every major city attacked would be *dead!* There would be survivors, probably, in rooms buried far beneath the ground. Military and government leaders, and members of their staffs, would survive. But the millions in the cities would die instantly. Shattering blast waves would tear or crush human bodies. Heat waves from Ground Zero (the military term for where a bomb strikes) would sear human skin.

For those not in the cities, those lucky enough to be in rural or wilderness areas, death would not occur. Not then in that first hour. They would live, as would the bears and deer, snakes, frogs, and rabbits. They would live for a time.

Then, the radioactive fall-out would begin. A deadly rain. People would sicken and die as the radiation poisoned them, poisoned the water contaminated the very grass in the fields. Radioactive dust sucked up in the atomic fireballs would fall for months from the lower troposphere or upper stratosphere.

What then? Would all life on earth cease to exist?

The military experts and scientists hope not. There are shelters equipped to maintain life for months or even a year. At the end of that time, in protective clothing, the few survivors would determine the level of radiation on the surface above and venture forth.

Perhaps some animals would survive. Hibernating animals such as bears might still live if it occurred in winter. Creatures in burrows might somehow survive. There is animal life in caves that would be unaffected. And, of course, the seas would still contain fish that would probably go on living. Perhaps pods of whales in the Antarctic (probably safer than the Arctic in a nuclear war) would live. Other mammals of the sea might make it.

With this as a beginning, even on a devastated, burned-out planet, life would probably go on. Radiation might easily cause genetic changes in existing species. Possibly, harmless bunny rabbits might turn into ferocious predators. Mammals of the sea could adapt to life on shore and start new strains of life. No doubt, life would go on. Trees would seed and a radiation-proof plant-life could develop. Possibly, fungus or mosses would become the covering vegetation.

Almost certainly, surviving man would change and adapt to this new world. Perhaps man would be the better for it. Certainly, he would not, for many thousands of years, be faced with food shortages or overcrowding as the world is today. There wouldn't be another war for many, many years. Man would be too hard-pressed just to survive in the strange new world that might dawn at any moment in the hideous fiery blossoms of a nuclear war!

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